

**An Update on Important Community Projects
Council President Scott Peters, First District
For the Carmel Valley News, October 2007**

Over the past three years, the City of San Diego and CalTrans have met with residents of Carmel Valley and Torrey Pines to discuss the best way to design and configure the rest of State Route 56, specifically the northbound connector to I-5 from SR-56 west, and access to Del Mar Heights from SR-56 westbound.

These important connectors were promised to residents in the 1990's as part of Proposition M, as a way to expedite traffic through the 56 corridor and eliminate the back-ups and potential hazards associated with cut-through traffic. It is frustrating that these necessary road projects are not complete.

A number of concerns need to be addressed to design these connectors in a way that is safe, efficient and mindful of the neighboring communities. I'm encouraged by the productive conversations taking place. When an agreement has been reached, the proposed design and alternatives will be tested for environmental impacts. It is my intent that all approvals will be complete by 2009.

The progress on these much-needed connectors has been slow, too slow in the minds of many residents and commuters, but I am encouraged that a deal benefiting all parties can be settled on soon.

Last month brought good news for one of the most exciting projects in Carmel Valley, the skate facility on El Camino Real, next to the new Northwestern Division police station.

In September, City planners and the design firm DeLorenzo Architects completed the facility designs, which were created with much community input. The plan was submitted to the Development Services Department for an expedited building permit review. The request for bids should be complete within a month after the permit is granted. Approval of the selected contractor will come to the City Council for a vote and as soon as the approval takes place. Project engineers expect to break ground in early 2008, with work completed by mid-summer.

It's exciting to see this project move so quickly to completion, thanks to the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board and community members who rallied around the proposal and participated in a series of design workshops. I look forward to joining you at the groundbreaking ceremony in early 2008.

Speaking of community events, I hope you will join Mayor Jerry Sanders, Police Chief William Lansdowne and me from 10:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, October 20 for a community open house at the San Diego Police Department Northwestern Division headquarters.

This is your chance to tour the new facility in full operation, and meet the men and women serving your community. McGruff the Crime Dog will be on hand with safety tips for kids. The Northwestern Division is located at 12592 El Camino Real; ample parking is available in the adjacent lot at Neurocrine Biosciences.